

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 215840
ORIGIN EA-12

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DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:ECHESKY:CCH
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS:DPSULLIVAN
-----024375 090552Z /12
R 090025Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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FOR NAVAL ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, ID

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO INVESTIGATE WRECK
OF U.S.S.-HOUSTON IN SUNDA STRAIT: SAM D. REDFORD

1. NAVAL ATTACHE, JAKARTA AND DEPARTMENT HAVE BEEN IN CORRESPONDENCE FOR SOME MONTHS WITH MR. REDFORD OF HAMILTON, TEXAS, RE PROPOSAL TO PREPARE UNDERWATER MOVIE OF WRECK OF U.S.S. HOUSTON WHICH WAS SUNK IN SUNDA STRAIT IN 1942.
2. RECENTLY MR. REDFORD HAS WRITTEN TO INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR RE-AFFIRMING HIS REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO MOUNT AN INITIAL EXPLORATORY DIVE (USING INDONESIAN FIRM) DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1977 (WHEN WATER IS MOST CLEAR). EMBASSY HAS FORWARDED REQUEST TO JAKARTA, (MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS) INDICATING TO US THE INTEREST OF THE INDONESIAN NAVY IN

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PAGE 02 STATE 215840

THE MATTER BUT THAT FINAL PERMISSION WOULD BE UP TO
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

3. PROBLEM HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR NEWSOM WHO AGREES NAVAL ATTACHE MIGHT INQUIRE REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF GOI PERMIT BEING ISSUED IN TIME FOR MR. REDFORD TO PLAN TRIP TO INDONESIA IN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

4. FAILING SOLID INFORMATION ON LIKELIHOOD OF EARLY
DECISION REDFORD CONSIDERING TRIP AS TOURIST TO ATTEMPT
TO PRESS HIS CASE IN JAKARTA PERSONALLY. DEPARTMENT
HAS NOT ENCOURAGED HIM ON LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS, BUT
WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EARLY EMBASSY ADVICE ON WHETHER
PERSONAL TRIP COULD BE USEFUL. VANCE

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Sent Date: 09-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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